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MAGIC 101
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COX
AVENGERS ACADEMY
RATED A
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WORST. CLASS. EVER.

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES OPENED THEIR DOORS TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS ACADEMY WAS BORN, TO TRAIN YOUNG ADULTS TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ACADEMY

FINESSE

PHOTOGRAPHIC FIGHTER. ALL HEAD, NO HEART.

HAZMAT

HUMAN TOXIC SPILL. CAUSTIC PERSONALITY.

METTLE

STEEL-SKINNED POWERHOUSE. ARMORED SHELL PROTECTING INNER FEELINGS.

REPTIL

DINOSAUR MORPHER. FUTURE HERO OR NAIVE OPTIMIST?

STRIKER

ELECTRIC DYNAMO. SELF-PROMOTES THROUGH SHOCK TACTICS.

VEIL

VARIABLE GAS GENERATOR. UNSEEN POTENTIAL... UNTIL SHE DISCORPORATES.

ORIGINAL AVENGER HANK PYM FOUNDED THE AVENGERS ACADEMY TO HELP GUIDE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERHUMANS IN THE NOBLE TRADITION OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES. THE INAUGURAL CLASS – WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY RECRUITED AND TORTURED BY NORMAN OSBORN – HAS SECRETLY LEARNED THE SHOCKING TRUTH: THEY WERE SELECTED NOT BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL TO BECOME HEROES...BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING VILLAINS.

THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE ACADEMY HAVE TESTED BOTH THE STUDENTS AND THE STAFF. FINESSE HAS BLACKMAILED QUICKSILVER INTO TEACHING HER ALL HE LEARNED FROM HIS FATHER, MAGNETO. STRIKER ORCHESTRATED A PUBLIC EVENT WHICH OUTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOL. AS REVENGE FOR HIS EARLIER ATTACK ON TIGRA, A GROUP OF STUDENTS HUNTED DOWN AND FILMED THEIR ASSAULT ON THE VILLAIN KNOWN AS THE HOOD. AND PYM HIMSELF, WHO HAS ONCE AGAIN TAKEN UP THE MANTLE OF GIANT-MAN, GRAPPLED WITH THE DECISION TO RESURRECT HIS EX-WIFE JANET VAN DYNE.

GIANT-MAN

SIZE-CHANGING SCIENTIST SUPREME.

TIGRA

CAT WOMAN. ENHANCED STRENGTH, AGILITY AND ATTITUDE.

QUICKSILVER

SURLY SPEEDSTER.

JUSTICE

TELEKINETIC MORAL COMPASS.

SPEEDBALL

KINETIC ENERGY MANIPULATOR. TRYING TO BOUNCE BACK.

JOCASTA

SYNTHETIC BEING. LOYAL TO GIANT-MAN... OR ULTRON?

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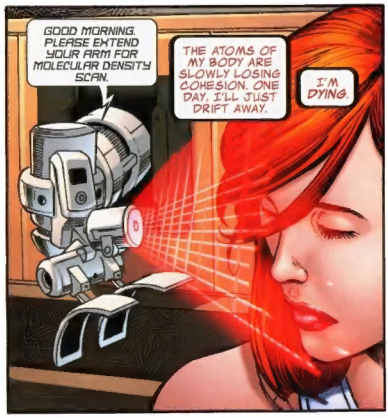
INFINITE AVENGERS MANSION.
VEIL'S QUARTERS.
IN THE MORNING, WHEN I FIRST WAKE UP...
...I FORGET FOR A MINUTE.

HAZMAT'S QUARTERS.
I'M RESTED. MAYBE I HAD A GOOD DREAM. AND FOR JUST A SECOND, I'M HAPPY. THE WAY I USED TO BE.
THEN I REMEMBER.


GOOD MORNING. PLEASE EXTEND YOUR ARM FOR MOLECULAR DENSITY SCAN.
THE ATOMS OF MY BODY ARE SLOWLY LOSING COHESION. ONE DAY, I'LL JUST DRIFT AWAY.
I'M DYING.

I'M ONLY REALLY ALIVE IN THIS ROOM.
OUTSIDE, I'M STUCK IN THAT SUIT. FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

DR. PYM'S PROMISED TO HELP ME. TO FIND A CURE. BUT NOW I'M ON PROBATION-- BECAUSE I WAS STUPID-- AND IF I MAKE ONE WRONG MOVE, I'M KICKED OUT.
EVERY DAY I HOPE THINGS'LL GET BETTER. AND INSTEAD, THEY GET WORSE.

PRETTY SOON, IT'S SUNK IN. TODAY'S GONNA SUCK AS MUCH AS ALL THE OTHERS. BUT JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER.
BECAUSE IT'S ONE MORE DAY...WITH NO END IN SIGHT.

THE COP.
I'D SAVE THE POLICEMAN FIRST. BECAUSE HE CAN HELP YOU SAVE OTHERS.
SUPERHUMAN ETHICS CLASS.
INSTRUCTORS: JUSTICE AND SPEEDBALL.
THAT'S SOLID REASONING, VEIL. BUT NOT EXACTLY RIGHT.
WHEN MORE THAN ONE PERSON'S IN DANGER, ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, YOU FIRST WANT TO RESCUE WHOEVER IS LEAST ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES.
IN THIS CASE, THE SENIOR CITIZEN.
DUH. WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DUDE. YOU TURN INTO GASES. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD DO SQUAT TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE ANYWAY.
I'M GOING TO GET KICKED OUT, METTLE. I KNOW IT.

VEIL, IT'S PART OF THE LEARNING PROCESS. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET KICKED OUT FOR GETTING AN ANSWER WRONG.
THAT'S NOT WHAT TIGRA SAID. QUOTE: "THE NEXT MISTAKE YOU MAKE WILL BE YOUR LAST AT THIS SCHOOL." UNQUOTE.
BY "MISTAKE," SHE MEANT IRRESPONSIBLE CHOICES. LIKE TRYING TO KILL OR BEAT UP CRIMINALS, WHICH YOU DID BEHIND OUR BACKS.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE TRAINING, NO ONE EXPECTS YOU TO BE PERFECT. WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU GET BETTER. AND YOU CAN ONLY DO THAT BY TAKING CHANCES.
BUT WE'RE ON PROBATION. THESE EXTRA CLASSES ARE THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET BACK IN GOOD STANDING.
HOW DO WE DO IT, MR. BALDWIN? HOW'D YOU DO IT? HOW'D YOU GET EVERYONE TO FORGIVE YOU AFTER YOU GOT ALL THOSE PEOPLE KILLED IN...

REDEMPTION SONG

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THE NEXT MORNING.
ANGER MANAGEMENT.
INSTRUCTOR: GIANT-MAN.
THIS SUCKS!
NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TO GO TO ANGER MANAGEMENT?
BAD ENOUGH I'M BEING TAUGHT MENTAL HEALTH BY THE CRAZIEST AVENGER OF ALL TIME...
A FEW POINTS. ONE: THE SENTRY WAS CRAZIER THAN ME. TWO: YOU'RE NOT MANAGING YOUR ANGER VERY WELL AT THE MOMENT. AND THREE: YOU'RE NOT BEING PUNISHED.
I KNOW IT'S HARD TO CONTROL YOUR TEMPER WHEN THERE'S NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. SO I'VE BEEN WORKING TO GIVE YOU ONE.
POWER DAMPENING TECHNOLOGY, LIKE S.P.I.N. TECH, WOULD JUST REMOVE YOUR ABILITY TO USE YOUR POWERS, NOT YOUR INHERENT TOXICITY. BUT I'VE FOUND ANOTHER, ALBEIT TEMPORARY, SOLUTION.
THIS IS LEECH. HE WORKS FOR REED RICHARDS, AT THE FUTURE FOUNDATION'S THINK TANK. WITH REED'S APPROVAL, HE'S GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO SPEND THE DAY WITH US.
HI.
LEECH IS A MUTANT. WHEN HE'S NEAR OTHERS, HE DAMPENS THEIR SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES...WHICH MEANS HE CAN REMOVE YOUR POWERS. ALL OF THEM.
HE...HE CAN MAKE ME NORMAL?
FOR A SHORT TIME, YES.
I BET YOU'RE DYING TO GET OUT OF THAT SUIT.

EXTRATERRESTRIAL CULTURE.
GUEST INSTRUCTOR: THE PROTECTOR.
THE FOMALHAUTI ARE AN AMOEBOID RACE THAT COMMUNICATES TELEPATHICALLY. DO NOT THINK THE WORD "JELLY" IN THEIR PRESENCE. AS IT IS CONSIDERED AN ETHNIC SLUR...
I LOVED IT. YOU JUST POINTED TO SPEEDBALL AND SAID, "HEY, THERE'S A BIG HONKIN' ELEPHANT IN THIS ROOM. AND IT'S WEARING BLUE AND YELLOW!" I MEAN, WHY SHOULD WE GET IN TROUBLE WHEN HE'S DONE A MILLION TIMES WORSE?
APPLIED CHEMISTRY.
INSTRUCTOR: GIANT-MAN.
THIS IS THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF FENTANYL, A POTENT BASE FOR BOTH PAINKILLERS AND VARIOUS KNOCKOUT GASES...
YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE. LIKE RIGHT AWAY. OR YOU JUST PASSED HAZMAT IN THE "MOST LIKELY TO GET BOOTED OUT" POOL.
RUDIMENTS OF MAGIC. GUEST INSTRUCTOR: DR. STRANGE.
FASCINATING. REPTIL, YOUR AMULET WAS CREATED BY A PREHISTORIC, EXTRADIMENSIONAL SORCERER. TO GIVE IT'S WIELDER THE ABILITIES OF DINOSAURS...
APOLOGIZE? RISKY. YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE HIM MORE ANGRY. IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING WITHOUT FIRST GAUGING HIS MOOD...

HE WAS CUTTING HIMSELF. TEACHERS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO DO THAT.
THINK, MADDIE...WHAT DID WE LEARN IN PSYCH CLASS? PEOPLE CUT THEMSELVES TO GET A SENSE OF CONTROL OR JUST TO FEEL SOMETHING BESIDES NUMB. USUALLY IT'S TRIGGERED BY STRESS...
...LIKE GOING TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU KILLED SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE.
WHAT DO I DO? TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT? HE'LL DENY IT AND KICK ME OUT.
TALK TO SOMEONE ELSE? THEN I HAVE TO ADMIT I WAS SPYING... AND THEY'LL KICK ME OUT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO--
VEIL?
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
I...
NO. EVERYTHING'S FINE.

GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO.
THIS IS HEAVEN. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I FELT THE SUN ON MY FACE.
OKAY, BOYFRIEND, WE'VE PLAYED LONG ENOUGH. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO MEET MY PARENTS?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LEECH? ALL I SAID WAS--
OH. I GET IT. YOUR PARENTS WERE... MEAN TO YOU. WELL, MINE AREN'T LIKE THAT.
THEY LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO. FOR PETE'S SAKE. SOME OF THEIR BEST FRIENDS ARE MUTANTS. AND WHEN THEY SEE ME LIKE THIS...
"...IT'LL BE BETTER THAN CHRISTMAS MORNING."
MOM! DAD!
JENNY? OH, MY GOD. JENNY!
HE CURED YOU! DR. PYM FINALLY CURED YOU!
UM, NOT PERMANENTLY, MOM. IT'S A TEMPORARY THING. THANKS TO MY FRIEND, LEECH.
AS LONG AS HE'S AROUND ME, HE TAKES AWAY MY POWERS. FOR A LITTLE WHILE, ANYWAY.
YAY?

WE'RE SORRY, HONEY. IT'S JUST... WE'VE PRAYED FOR SO LONG THAT ALL THIS WOULD BE OVER, AND WHEN WE SAW YOU, WE THOUGHT--
WE THOUGHT THINGS WERE BACK TO NORMAL, THAT'S ALL.
NO, MOM. SORRY I'M NOT NORMAL. NOT EVEN CLOSE.
YOU AND THAT BOY...YOU'RE NOT...
DAD! HE'S, LIKE, TWELVE.
OH. IT'S HARD TO TELL, WITH...YOU KNOW.
YEAH... YEAH, I DO.
ANYWAY, I SHOULD GET BACK. TIME'S ALMOST UP. LEECH HAS TO HEAD HOME.
WHAT? BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE!
AND NOW I HAVE TO GO.

WE'D STARTED A REALITY SHOW. WE WERE STILL SUPER HEROES. BUT NOW WE HAD CAMERAS FOLLOWING US.
A LOT OF IT WAS ORCHESTRATED BEFOREHAND. WE KNEW WHAT WE WERE GOING INTO.
"WE'D FOUND FOUR ESCAPED CRIMINALS HIDING OUT IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT. NITRO, THE COBALT MAN, COLDHEART AND SPEEDFREEK. WE MOVED IN TO TAKE THEM DOWN.
"WE WEREN'T RUNNING IN BLIND, LIKE SOME PEOPLE SAY. WE KNEW WHO THEY WERE. WE KNEW WHAT THEY COULD DO.
"WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS NITRO HAD ENHANCED HIS POWERS USING MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE. HIS NORMAL EXPLOSIVE FORCE WAS MAGNIFIED DOZENS OF TIMES.
"SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE DIED, INCLUDING SIXTY KIDS...AND MY THREE FRIENDS."

THE STAMFORD MEMORIAL.
GONE. JUST LIKE THAT.
BUT IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE, IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT--
IT WAS OUR FAULT. BECAUSE IT SHOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED.
WE SHOULD'VE BEEN READY FOR ANYTHING. YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO CONSIDER THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO. THE UNEXPECTED. BECAUSE WHEN YOU DON'T...
...THIS IS WHAT CAN HAPPEN.
GO AHEAD. READ THE NAMES. AND THINK ABOUT EACH ONE...WHAT IT MEANS. WHAT WAS LOST.
AREN'T YOU--?
I HAVEN'T EARNED THE RIGHT.
AND I KNOW THEM ALL ALREADY.

MARVEL

FEAR ITSELF

FEAR ITSELF, the comic book event of 2011, is coming soon, and here at Marvel HQ we're too excited to keep all the cool details under wraps, so each week till the release of **Fear Itself #1** we're showing you something new and exclusive about this event in the pages of your favorite Marvel comics!

We've got your first look at someone who's a major player in **FEAR ITSELF**, but just who is it...and how did they gain this power?

"Aww, look at Daddy's Little Girl, all grown up. In a few issues time she'll accomplish what even her father failed to do."

- **Matt Fraction**
Writer,
Fear Itself

"The design challenge for this character was to honor her previous incarnations while incorporating quasi-Norse ophidian elements. Moreover, the idea was to make her look powerful, imposing, and god-like. Nothing like raising the bar from page one, right?"

- **Stuart Immonen**
Artist,
Fear Itself

Cover Artwork by STEVE MCNIVEN

Character Artwork by STUART IMMONEN

LOOK AT HIM. NO WONDER HE'S IN PAIN.
BUT IF HE'S DEALING WITH IT BY CUTTING HIMSELF, HE NEEDS HELP. IF HE DOESN'T GET IT, HE COULD GET WORSE. HE COULD GET US KILLED. OR SOMEONE ELSE.
I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO--
THUD
YOU HAD THE NERVE TO COME HERE? TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU COMMITTED MASS MURDER?
THAT'S FINE WITH US, SPEEDBALL. YOU SHOULD'VE DIED HERE...AND NOW THE COBALT MEN ARE GONNA CORRECT THAT MISTAKE!
SHAZAAKK
EVERYBODY DOWN!

HAZMAT! THEIR SUITS RUN ON RADIATION...CAN YOU OVERLOAD THEIR POWER CORES?
I...DR. PYM DRAINED MY ENERGIES, AND THEY HAVEN'T BUILT BACK UP YET...
ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP! METTLE, TAKE POINT! VEIL, TRY TO INFILTRATE THEIR SUITS AND KNOCK THEM OUT! THE REST OF YOU--
NO. NOT HERE.

NOT HERE!!
OH, MY GOD.

ROBBIE, THAT WAS AMAZING.
IF HE CAN DO THAT...AND [redacted] HAS A BREAKDOWN...
I KNEW YOU WERE GETTING IT TOGETHER, BUT THIS...
NO! HE'S NOT GETTING IT TOGETHER!
HE'S CUTTING HIMSELF! I SAW IT! HE...HE NEEDS HELP! I'M SORRY, MR. BALDWIN. I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SPYING ON YOU, BUT IT'S TRUE!
ROBBIE, IS SHE--
NICE WORK, AVENGERS. IF THIS PLACE HAD BEEN WRECKED...WELL, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU, IT WOULDN'T HAVE LOOKED GOOD.
I FIGURE THAT'S WHAT THESE IDIOTS WERE COUNTING ON. WE GOT ALERTS ABOUT THEM... BUNCH OF PRO-NORMAN OSBORN WHACKJOBS OUT TO TURN FOLKS AGAINST YOU GUYS.
GOT HOLD OF CHEAP KNOCKOFFS OF THE COBALT MAN ARMOR AND BEEN RAISING HELL EVER SINCE. THE RING-LEADER SAID THEY WERE WATCHING THIS PLACE...HOPING TO CATCH ONE OF YOU HERE AND "MAKE A STATEMENT."
DIRTBAGS... NONE OF 'EM ARE EVEN FROM STAMFORD. NO ONE FROM HERE WOULD DO THIS.
I'M JUST SORRY IT HAPPENED. WE'LL GO...AND PAY FOR THE REPAIRS. OF COURSE.
HEY, BALDWIN.

I LOST FRIENDS HERE. SPENT A LONG TIME BLAMING YOU.
BUT I WAS A COP IN NEW YORK FOR TWENTY YEARS. I KNOW HOW A BUST CAN TURN BAD. AND WHEN SOMEONE GETS SHOT, I BLAME THE GUY WITH THE GUN.
I'M NOT SAYING I'M PAST IT. THE WHOLE REALITY SHOW THING, THAT WAS...
I KNOW.
BUT WHAT YOU DID...SAVING WASHINGTON FROM THE INVASION, WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH THESE KIDS...I CAN TELL YOU WANT TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
...YOU WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE, IT'S OKAY WITH ME.

HAZMAT, GOT A MINUTE? I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS.
I JUST FINISHED EXAMINING LEECH. HE SHOWS NO ILL EFFECTS FROM HAVING NEUTRALIZED YOUR POWERS. SO WE COULD MAKE THIS A REGULAR THING...BIWEEKLY, PERHAPS--
PASS.
EXCUSE ME?
I ALMOST GOT KILLED OUT THERE TODAY BECAUSE MY POWERS WERE DAMPENED. I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
WELL, YES... IT WAS A BAD IDEA TO SCHEDULE IT ON A DAY YOU WERE GOING INTO THE FIELD. BUT ON AN OFF DAY--
WHAT'S AN OFF DAY? HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN A ZOMBIE CYBORG ALIEN'S GOING TO BEAM IN AND ATTACK US?
NO OFFENSE, LEECH. YOU'RE MY HERO FOR TRYING TO HELP, AND HANGING OUT WITH ME ALL DAY. BUT I THINK I'LL STAY COMBAT READY.
I...SUPPOSE THAT MAKES SENSE. I JUST... THERE ISN'T SOME OTHER REASON?
LIKE WHAT?
WHEN IT'S PERMANENT, SIGN ME UP. WHEN I CAN QUIT ALL THIS AND GO HOME AND THINGS CAN BE LIKE THEY WERE. UNTIL THEN...
...I'M NOT GIVING ANYONE THE CHANCE TO HURT ME.

HANK PYM'S LAB. THAT NIGHT.
NOW I GET IT. THEY FORGAVE SPEEDBALL BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID, BOTH BEFORE THE DISASTER, AS A NEW WARRIOR, AND AFTERWARD, AS PENANCE.
THE PEOPLE OF STAMFORD FORGAVE HIM BECAUSE HE SAVED THE CAPITAL. JUSTICE FORGAVE HIM BECAUSE THEY'RE FRIENDS. BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WAS A GOOD PERSON.
BUT NO ONE HERE KNOWS ME. NOT WELL ENOUGH.
SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
DR. PYM BUILT THIS MACHINE FOR HIS EX-WIFE, THE WASP. THE SKRULLS USED SOME DOOMSDAY WEAPON ON HER. SCATTERED HER BODY INTO ITS SEPARATE MOLECULES. LIKE MY BODY WILL, SOMEDAY.
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE HER. BUT HE HASN'T ACTIVATED IT BECAUSE HE THINKS SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO COME BACK IF HER MIND WASN'T INTACT.
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID WHEN SHE WAS HEALTHY. BUT, AS SOMEBODY WHO'S STARING DOWN THE BARREL OF THE SAME GUN, I KNOW I'D TAKE ANY CHANCE TO SAVE MYSELF.
AND I JUST DID.
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO FORGIVE ME NOW, BECAUSE I'M DOING SOMETHING NONE OF THEM COULD.
I'M BRINGING THE WASP BACK TO LIFE.
TO BE CONTINUED!

AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL

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Hey, how about Sean Chen? Is he great or what? He'll be back for issue #13, in formalwear for Super Hero Prom Night! Okay, let's dive right into the letters:

AVENGERS ACADEMY #8 was a poignant issue that brought attention to the stigma that abuse victims face in our society. Using the abuse that Tigra experienced in a fictional context – and how she chose to deal with it – to make a point about a very real problem was appreciated. Also, I love how you handled the humor and tension created by the generation gap between instructors and students. It creates a realistic atmosphere for the book, and empathy for the characters. Please keep up the great work.

Jeremy Beebe
Kansas City, MO

Thanks, Jeremy! The effects of abuse and trauma touch a lot of people – more than most of us realize – so it was important to me to show that super heroes struggle with these issues as well. Glad it was effective for you.

Good job on the series so far, I've been really enjoying it! Couple of questions though: What is the current status of the Initiative teams? Have they all been disbanded or is the program still active? By the way, my requests as far as guests go are as follows; Black Knight, Starfox, Firestar, Night Thrasher, UltraGirl, Turbo, Darkhawk and SilverClaw! Hope you can indulge me!

Oliver Ruel De Guzman

Oliver, the Initiative program has been disbanded. However, the Initiative teams that already existed (and were made up of heroes, not Norman Osborn's villains masquerading as heroes) were given the choice to continue on their own if they wished. So, the Texas Rangers, Kentucky's Action Pack and the rest of the gang may still be out there fighting the good fight! By the way, fans of the Initiative will want to pick up AVENGERS ACADEMY #13, which guest stars several Initiative alumni, including Hardball, Komodo, Batwing and...wait for it...Butterball! Not to mention Firestar and Ultragirl! That's right, Justice will be in the same room as his current girlfriend and his ex-fiancée! Hope his costume is sweat-resistant...

Dear AVENGERS ACADEMY,

I am still before my teens, but am very aware! What you guys do with comics is pure magic. At first I wasn't impressed by the new Marvel age, thinking the only reason people still buy your comics is because of routine. You guys have really brought my love for comics back. Writers like you and Jonathan Hickman are the new era! I wish to be a comic writer one day and be as good at it as you. I wouldn't mind a job offer.

I would like to see some new characters for the Academy. You can't make an Academy out of 6 people and teachers; who are the other Osborn "trainees?" I like how you keep the roster low, but consider it.

I like what you do with all the villain appearances, but I would totally love to see the Runaways in here. A few more teams I would like to see are the Fantastic Four (including Val and Frank), Power Pack (please!), and some mutants (*cough*X-men*cough*).

Adam Campbell

Adam, I think a lot of people wouldn't mind a job offer these days...but you should aim higher than wanting to be as good as me! Keep writing, practicing and improving your work and who knows, you may write comics one day. As I've mentioned before, I sent in my first pitch to Marvel when I was 14, and it was another 19 years before I wrote my first Marvel story, so it doesn't come easily! The important thing is to enjoy yourself. Create your own comics with friends who are aspiring artists. If you have fun doing it, you're already a success.

As to your questions, there are no plans for the Fantastic Four to show up in these pages, but you saw a member of their extended family, Leech, this very issue! And he's also a mutant...that's two of your requests fulfilled, how's that for service? As for new members, it's definitely something I've thought about...and I'm glad you've wondered who else might have been among Norman Osborn's "trainees." You'll find out sooner rather than later!

Thanks for having a letters page! It really adds something great to your comic. Plus, I think it gives fans a feeling that they have to go out and buy the newest issue and not wait for the trade paperback. It makes me feel like if I did that, I would be missing all these cool extra things that the monthly letter columns contain.

Glenn Grothaus
St. Louis, Missouri

Thanks, Glenn! I love doing the letters page, so I'm glad people seem to enjoy it. (And our ace letterer, Joe Caramagna, is a real champ about putting it together!) I definitely want the loyal readers who pick up the monthly issues to feel like they get a little extra bonus for doing so. Of course, we love the folks who buy the collected editions too...in fact (not-so-subtle segue), the hardcover collection of our first six issues, AVENGERS ACADEMY VOLUME 1: PERMANENT RECORD, is available now! It makes a perfect gift for a friend who you think might enjoy the book, but hasn't taken the plunge yet.

Thanks also to correspondents Brian Edwards, huge Giant-Man fan Rob Shelor – who wanted to name his daughter Mjolnir, but fortunately his wife had other ideas! – Steven Leitman (Steve, it was Jigsaw who videotaped the Hood beating Tigra...and the Hood gave copies to everyone in his gang, which is how the Slug got one), Alex Campbell, Nelson Toretti and Ryan Stevens.

Next month: Tom Raney's back! Korvac's back! Is the Wasp back? Who else is back? And will there be any room when BOTH Avengers teams guest star to take on the might of one of the Avengers' most powerful foes of all time? Miss it not, True Believer!

Christos Gage

NEXT!

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